

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION	§	
FOUNDATION, INC., and JOHN ROE,	§	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>	§	
v.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:19-CV-1934
JUDGE WAYNE MACK, in his personal capacity and in his official capacity on behalf of the State of Texas,	§	
<i>Defendant.</i>	§	

**APPENDIX TO DEFENDANT'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF HIS MOTION TO DISMISS**

Defendant, Judge Wayne Mack in his individual capacity, files this Appendix to his reply in support of his motion to dismiss.

Exhibit	Page(s)	Document
A	App. 1–5	<i>Freedom from Religion Found., Inc. v. Mack</i> , 2018 WL 6981153 (S.D. Tex. Sept. 27, 2018)
B	App. 6–11	Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. No. KP-0109, 2016 WL 4414588 (2016)
C	App. 12	<i>Court Holds First Session</i> , St. Petersburg Times (July 30, 1996), 1996 WLNR 2378937
D	App. 13	<i>Minister Turns Into Surprise Witness</i> , Hou. Chron. (Apr. 1, 1985), 1985 WLNR 1239288
E	App. 14	<i>25 Moonshiners Confess</i> , The Morning Tulsa Daily World (Apr. 30, 1922)
F	App. 15	<i>Putnam</i> , Norwich Bull. (Oct. 9, 1919)
G	App. 16	<i>Federal Court</i> , Daily Chieftain (Apr. 6, 1901)
H	App. 17	<i>St. Johnsbury</i> , Orleans Cty. Monitor (June 13, 1881)
I	App. 18	<i>A Verified Dream</i> , Superior Times (June 7, 1879)
J	App. 19	<i>Circuit Court</i> , Herald & Tribune (Aug. 10, 1871)
K	App. 20–24	Cathy Gordon, <i>The Bench and the Bible: State District Judge Refuses to Leave His Faith at Courtroom Door</i> , Hou. Chron. (Nov. 23, 1985), 1985 WLNR 1247161

Dated: October 2, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Berry  
Texas Bar No. 24085835  
S.D. Tex. Bar No. 2412537  
Hiram S. Sasser III  
Texas Bar No. 24039157  
S.D. Tex. Bar No. 632649  
FIRST LIBERTY INSTITUTE  
2001 West Plano Parkway, Suite 1600  
Plano, Texas 75075  
Phone: (972) 941-4444  
Facsimile: (972) 423-6162  
*mberry@firstliberty.org*  
*hsasser@firstliberty.org*

*/s/ Allyson N. Ho*  
Allyson N. Ho  
*Attorney-in-Charge*  
Texas Bar No. 24033667  
S.D. Tex. Bar No. 1024306  
Bradley G. Hubbard  
Texas State Bar No. 24094710  
S.D. Tex. Bar No. 3450976  
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER, LLP  
2100 McKinney Avenue, Suite 1100  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
Telephone: (214) 698-3100  
Facsimile: (214) 571-2900  
*aho@gibsondunn.com*  
*bhubbard@gibsondunn.com*

John S. Ehrett (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Virginia Bar No. 93486  
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER, LLP  
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone: (202) 955-8500  
Facsimile: (202) 467-0539  
*jehrett@gibsondunn.com*

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT JUDGE WAYNE MACK  
IN HIS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that, on October 2, 2019, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Appendix to Defendant's Reply in Support of His Motion to Dismiss was served by ECF on all counsel of record.

*/s/ Allyson N. Ho*  
Allyson N. Ho

# Exhibit A

2018 WL 6981153

Only the Westlaw citation is currently available.

United States District Court,  
S.D. Texas, Houston Division.

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION,  
INC., Jane Doe, John Roe, and Jane Noe, Plaintiffs,  
v.

Judge Wayne MACK, in his official  
capacity as Justice of the Peace, and  
Montgomery County, Texas, Defendants.

Civil Action No. H-17-881

Signed 09/27/2018

#### Attorneys and Law Firms

Patrick Allen Luff, Winckler & Harvey, L.L.P, Austin, TX, Elizabeth Cavell, Pro Hac Vice, Samuel Troxell Grover, Freedom From Religion Foundation, Madison, WI, for Plaintiffs.

Aaron Michael Streett, Amy Pharr Hefley, Nischay Kishan Bhan, Baker Botts LLP, Houston, TX, Vincent Moore Wagner, Baker Botts LLP, William Thomas Thompson, Gibson Dunn Crutcher LLP, Dallas, TX, Adam Tyler Anderson, Montgomery County Attorney's Office, Conroe, TX, Chelsey Danaye Youman, Hiram S. Sasser, III, First Liberty Institute, Plano, TX, for Defendants.

#### MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

EWING WERLEIN, JR., UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

\*1 Pending is Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings (Document No. 65).<sup>1</sup> After carefully considering the motion, response, reply, notice of relevant authority and response thereto, and applicable law, the Court concludes as follows.

<sup>1</sup> A separate Motion by Judge Wayne Mack, in his Individual Capacity, for Leave to File Brief as *Amicus Curiae* in Support of Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings (Document No. 69), to which Plaintiffs have filed no opposition, is GRANTED and Judge

Mack's proposed *amicus* brief at Document No. 69-1 is deemed filed.

#### I. Background

Plaintiffs' allegations in this suit are summarized in the Court's Memorandum and Order entered January 19, 2018, at pages 1-7, and need not be repeated here.<sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs allege that the courtroom prayer practice of Judge Wayne Mack, the elected Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1 of Defendant Montgomery County, Texas (the "County"), violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.<sup>3</sup> The County moves for judgment on the pleadings, arguing that (1) it is entitled to statutory immunity under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988, (2) it cannot be liable under Monell for actions Judge Mack took in his judicial capacity, and (3) Plaintiffs lack standing because their injuries would not be redressed by the relief they seek against the County.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Document No. 52.

<sup>3</sup> Document No. 22 (1st Am. Compl.). The Court previously dismissed the claims of Plaintiff Jane Noe for lack of standing. Document No. 52.

<sup>4</sup> Document No. 65.

#### II. Identity of the Defendant(s)

The parties in their submissions often refer to "Defendants" in the plural, which may confuse the actual identity of Defendant. Plaintiff have repeatedly clarified that their claims against Judge Mack are limited to his official capacity. The Court in its Memorandum and Order dated January 19, 2018, explained that "Plaintiffs' claims against Judge Mack, which are limited to his official capacity, are merely another way of stating their claims against the County."<sup>5</sup> See Kentucky v. Graham, 105 S. Ct. 3099, 3105 (1985) ("As long as the government entity receives notice and an opportunity to respond, an official-capacity suit is, in all respects other than name, to be treated as a suit against the entity.").

<sup>5</sup> Document No. 52 at 7.

When Plaintiffs subsequently suggested that their official capacity claims might be claims against an undisclosed government entity other than the County,<sup>6</sup> the Court ordered Plaintiffs to state "whether their claim against Judge Mack in

2018 WL 6981153

his official capacity is a claim against any government entity other than Montgomery County, and if so, [to] identify that entity and show that Plaintiffs have served or are actively seeking service upon it.”<sup>7</sup> The Court further ordered that “[i]f no such other entity subject to suit is so identified by Plaintiffs, then Plaintiffs’ claim against Judge Mack in his official capacity will be dismissed as redundant with their claim against Montgomery County.”<sup>8</sup> In response, Plaintiffs confirmed that “[f]rom the outset, Plaintiffs sued Judge Mack in his official capacity, with the understanding that that was simply another way of suing Montgomery County. Plaintiffs do not identify any other government entity synonymous with Judge Mack in his official capacity.”<sup>9</sup> Plaintiffs’ claims against Judge Mack in his official capacity are therefore DISMISSED as redundant. *See Bustillos v. El Paso Cty. Hosp. Dist.*, 226 F. Supp. 3d 778, 789 (W.D. Tex. 2016) (“[W]hen a plaintiff asserts claims against both the municipal entity and a municipal official in his or her official capacity, the Court can dismiss the official capacity claim as ‘redundant’ to the municipal-entity claim.”) (citing *Sanders-Burns v. City of Plano*, 594 F.3d 366, 373 (5th Cir. 2010) ), *aff’d*, 891 F.3d 214 (5th Cir. 2018); *see also Kinnison v. City of San Antonio*, No. CIV.A. SA-08-CA-421X, 2009 WL 578525, at \*2 (W.D. Tex. Mar. 5, 2009) (“Courts routinely dismiss official capacity claims as redundant in § 1983 actions.”) (collecting cases).

6 See Document No. 75 at 20; Document No. 84 at 2.

7 Document No. 85 at 3.

8 Id.

9 Document No. 86 at 1. This is consistent with the County’s position in defending Plaintiffs’ claims against Judge Mack in his official capacity. See, e.g., Document No. 64 ¶ 73 (Def.’s Answer) (“The First Amended Complaint alleged redress only against Montgomery County because Judge Mack is sued only in his official capacity.”).

### III. Standing

\*2 “Because standing is an element of the constitutional requirement of ‘case or controversy,’ lack of standing deprives the court of subject matter jurisdiction.” *In re Weaver*, 632 F.2d 461, 462 n.6 (5th Cir. 1980). “If the court determines at any time that it lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the action.” FED. R. CIV. P. 12(h) (3).

Accordingly, the Court turns first to the County’s argument that Plaintiffs lack Article III standing to sue the County.

“Article III of the Constitution limits the ‘judicial power’ of the United States to the resolution of ‘cases’ and ‘controversies.’” *Valley Forge Christian Coll. v. Americans United for Separation of Church & State, Inc.*, 102 S. Ct. 752, 757 (1982). “The power to declare the rights of individuals and to measure the authority of governments ... ‘is legitimate only in the last resort, and as a necessity in the determination of real, earnest and vital controversy.’” *Id.* at 758 (quoting *Chicago & Grand Trunk R. Co. v. Wellman*, 12 S. Ct. 400, 402 (1892) ). Accordingly, the Court “has always required that a litigant have ‘standing’ to challenge the action sought to be adjudicated in the lawsuit.” *Id.* “[T]o satisfy Article III’s standing requirements, a plaintiff must show (1) it has suffered an ‘injury in fact’ that is (a) concrete and particularized and (b) actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical; (2) the injury is fairly traceable to the challenged action of the defendant; and (3) it is likely, as opposed to merely speculative, that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision.” *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Envtl. Servs. (TOC), Inc.*, 120 S. Ct. 693, 704 (2000). “The plaintiff, as the party invoking federal jurisdiction, bears the burden of establishing these elements.” *Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins*, 136 S. Ct. 1540, 1547 (2016) (citation omitted).

In its motion to dismiss, the County argued that Plaintiffs failed to establish the first requirement of standing because they had not alleged a cognizable injury in fact nor alleged that such injury was imminent, arguments that the Court rejected in its Memorandum of January 19, 2018 (“Memorandum”) (Document No. 52). Additionally, “[v]iewing the pleadings in the light most favorable to Plaintiffs,” see Memorandum at 36, the Court found that Plaintiffs’ Amended Complaint stated a claim “against the County based on a persistent, widespread practice [by Judge Mack] of violating the Establishment Clause.” *Id.* at 39. However, focused attention was not given by the parties in their briefing and oral arguments, or by the Court in its Memorandum, to the issue now highlighted by the County, namely, whether Plaintiffs’ injury arose from *the County’s* challenged actions and whether it would be redressed by declaratory or injunctive relief *against the County*, as is necessary for Article III standing.<sup>10</sup>

10 The undersigned Judge erred in not raising this fundamental jurisdictional imperative of redressability. “[C]ourts ... have an independent obligation to determine whether subject-matter jurisdiction exists, even in the

2018 WL 6981153

absence of a challenge from any party.” Arbaugh v. Y&H Corp., 126 S. Ct. 1235, 1244 (2006) (citation omitted). The Supreme Court has observed that “[a]s is often the case, the questions of causation and redressability overlap.” Massachusetts v. E.P.A., 127 S. Ct. 1438, 1468 (2007). The undersigned vacates all references to the question of redressability contained in its Memorandum of January 19, 2018 that are at variance with this Memorandum, including the erroneous preliminary statement at page 10 of the January 19th Memorandum, that “Plaintiffs have established the second and third requirements of standing: their alleged injury if cognizable arises from Judge Mack’s challenged prayer practice and would be redressed by a decision holding the prayer practice to be unconstitutional.” Document No. 52 at 10.

\*3 The County argues that the relief Plaintiffs seek against it would not redress Plaintiffs’ injury because the County has no power to stop Judge Mack from employing the prayer practice to which Plaintiffs object.<sup>11</sup> As the County correctly argues, justices of the peace are elected officials whose office is established by the same section of the Texas Constitution that establishes county commissioners courts. TEX. CONST. art. V, § 18. Although commissioners courts are authorized to draw the boundaries of the county’s precincts, and “in each such precinct there shall be one Justice of the Peace,” id., commissioners courts are given no authority over the office of the justice of the peace. The next following section of the Constitution confers upon justices of the peace their criminal and civil jurisdiction, with no mention or reference whatever to commissioners courts. TEX. CONST. art. V, § 19. Other matters pertaining to justices of the peace are prescribed by statutes. For examples, “The justices of the peace in each county shall, by majority vote, adopt local rules of administration.” TEX. GOV’T CODE § 27.061. While a justice of the peace may be removed for incompetency, official misconduct, or intoxication, such removal is not at the discretion of the county commissioners court but rather is initiated by the filing of a petition in district court—the same process for removing a county commissioner or county judge. TEX. LOC. GOV’T CODE §§ 87.012, 87.013, 87.015. Plaintiffs cite no Texas constitutional or statutory provision or caselaw authorizing counties, including county commissioners courts, to control the judicial or administrative courtroom practices of justices of the peace, and the Court has found no such authority.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Document No. 65 at 14.

12 The commissioners court sets the time and place for holding justice court, and, in precincts with more than 75,000 inhabitants, “the commissioners court shall provide and furnish a suitable place in the courthouse for the justice of that precinct to hold court.” TEX. GOV’T CODE § 27.051. The commissioners court also sets the salary for justices of the peace, subject to a statutory minimum. TEX. LOC. GOV’T CODE § 152.012. Such responsibilities, however, do not amount to control over the courtroom proceedings of justices of the peace. Cf. McMillian v. Monroe County, 117 S. Ct. 1734, 1740 (1997) (“The county’s payment of the sheriff’s salary does not translate into control over him, since the county neither has the authority to change his salary nor the discretion to refuse payment completely. The county commissions do appear to have the discretion to deny funds to the sheriffs for their operations beyond what is ‘reasonably necessary.’ But at most, this discretion would allow the commission to exert an attenuated and indirect influence over the sheriff’s operations.”) (internal citation omitted).

Where a defendant has no authority to stop an illegal act, injunctive relief is “utterly meaningless” and there is no Article III standing. Okpalobi v. Foster, 244 F.3d 405, 426-27 (5th Cir. 2001) (*en banc*) (“Because these defendants have no powers to redress the injuries alleged, the plaintiffs have no case or controversy with these defendants that will permit them to maintain this action in federal court.”). In Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, 112 S. Ct. 2130 (1992), a majority of the justices who reached redressability found that it was lacking where “redress of the only injury in fact respondents complain of requires action (termination of funding until consultation) by the individual funding agencies [housed outside the Department of the Interior that were not parties to the suit]; and any relief the District Court could have provided in this suit against the [Defendant] Secretary [of the Interior Lujon] was not likely to produce that action.” Id. at 2142 (Scalia, J., joined as to Part III-B by Rehnquist, C.J., and White and Thomas, JJ.).<sup>13</sup> Similarly, the Fifth Circuit sitting *en banc* in Okpalobi held that plaintiffs—providers of abortion services—failed to establish Article III redressability for their claims against Louisiana’s governor and attorney general, who were not empowered with a “duty or ability to do *anything*” with respect to the challenged statute that allowed private causes of action to be filed against abortion providers. 244 F.3d at 426-27; see also id. at 427 (“We do not challenge that the plaintiffs are suffering a threatened injury. We only say that the injury alleged by the plaintiffs is not, and cannot possibly be, *caused* by the defendants—that is, these defendants will not file and prosecute a cause

2018 WL 6981153

of action under Act 825 against these plaintiffs; and that their injury cannot be *redressed* by these defendants--that is, these defendants cannot prevent purely private litigants from filing and prosecuting a cause of action under Act 825 and cannot prevent the courts of Louisiana from processing and hearing these private tort cases."); *accord Meyers v. JDC/Firethorne, Ltd.*, 548 S.W.3d 477, 489 (Tex. 2018) (looking to federal law on redressability and dismissing for lack of standing injunction against county commissioner who lacked authority to present or approve plat application) ("The fact that a county commissioner may have 'influence' as a result of his position in the hierarchy of county government is merely a political reality. But even if such 'influence' somehow contributed to Stolleis's decision to 'hold' the plat applications, this political reality does not compel the conclusion that JDC/Firethorne has standing to pursue this injunction against Meyers when Meyers has no legal authority to remedy JDC/Firethorne's alleged harm.... [A]llowing JDC/ Firethorne's claim against Meyers to move forward on these facts would allow a plaintiff to join as a defendant any government official who may have 'influence' over the primary actor with authority over the matter at issue.").

13 Justices Kennedy and Souter agreed that the plaintiffs lacked standing but declined to reach redressability. *See Lujan*, 112 S. Ct. at 2146 ("In light of the conclusion that respondents have not demonstrated a concrete injury here sufficient to support standing under our precedents, I would not reach the issue of redressability that is discussed by the plurality in Part III-B."). Three justices would have found redressability. *See id.* at 2149 (Stevens, J., concurring in the judgment); *id.* at 2155 (Blackmun, J., joined by O'Connor, J., dissenting).

\*4 Courts likewise have found that standing was lacking in claims against municipalities based on the acts of local judges whom they did not have power to control. *See Eggar v. City of Livingston*, 40 F.3d 312, 316 (9th Cir. 1994) ("A municipality cannot be liable for judicial conduct it lacks the power to require, control, or remedy, even if that conduct parallels or appears entangled with the desires of the municipality.") (citations omitted). The Ninth Circuit in *Eggar* held that the plaintiffs lacked standing to pursue their claims for declaratory and injunctive relief against the city for a municipal judge's policy of imprisoning indigent defendants without offering appointed counsel, explaining that "the City has no control over the state judicial functions of Judge Travis. Thus declaratory or injunctive relief against the City cannot achieve the desired goal of having Judge Travis cease his alleged unconstitutional conduct." *Id.* at 317. In a case

arising in Texas, the Fifth Circuit quoted and adopted *Eggar*'s reasoning in rejecting a plaintiff's wrongful incarceration claim, holding that the "relevant decisions were made, not by a City policymaker, but by a municipal judge acting in his judicial capacity." *Garcia Guevara v. City of Haltom City*, 106 F. App'x 900, 902 (5th Cir. 2004). The Court also rejected the additional argument that the defendant city had ratified the judge's detention decision. *Id.* ("Because the municipality did not have the power to control the municipal judge's actions, however, it also did not have the power to ratify them.").

Plaintiffs have not met their burden to establish that the County has any power to control Judge Mack's courtroom prayer practice so as to establish redressability. Nor have Plaintiffs made an argument for such a holding. To the contrary, Plaintiffs allege that "Judge Mack is responsible for devising and implementing the prayer practice," and the only alleged specific act of the County related thereto is that "Montgomery County administers the chaplaincy program from which Judge Mack selects chaplains to deliver prayers in his courtroom."<sup>14</sup> Plaintiffs clarified at oral arguments on January 10, 2018, that they do not challenge the County's maintenance of the chaplains list for use in connection with Judge Mack's duties as coroner, but only the chaplains' role in opening Judge Mack's courtroom proceedings with prayer.<sup>15</sup> Moreover, while Plaintiffs attempt to disaggregate various aspects of Judge Mack's prayer practice and policy, it is only the actual prayers in Judge Mack's courtroom that injure Plaintiffs under the Establishment Clause so as to provide the first element of standing, and those prayers are not attributable to the County.<sup>16</sup>

14 Document No. 22 ¶¶ 15, 17.

15 Document No. 62 at 26:2-16.

16 For example, the deputy's action in locking Judge Mack's courtroom doors pursuant to Judge Mack's order is not in and of itself a violation of the Establishment Clause without Judge Mack's requirement for the oral prayers themselves. Even if locking the doors injured Plaintiffs, however, those acts would not be attributable to the County, nor have Plaintiffs cited any authority permitting the County to instruct its deputies to disregard Judge Mack's courtroom instructions. *See Burns v. Mayes*, 369 F. App'x 526, 531 (5th Cir. 2010) ("As a protocol of the 410th Judicial District applicable to criminal defendants appearing before a judge of the 410th Judicial District, the [substance abuse program] is clearly a state judicial policy, not a County policy. The

fact that the County's law enforcement officers carried out Judge Mayes's orders is of no moment.") (holding that substance abuse recovery program established by local judge was not attributable to county even though county law enforcement officers carried out judge's orders and the county's website described the program).

Instead of showing how a judgment against the County could redress their injuries, Plaintiffs attempt to shift the burden to the County to identify another government entity responsible for Judge Mack's actions, arguing that in the absence of such an entity, the County necessarily must be responsible for Judge Mack's policy.<sup>17</sup> Plaintiffs cite no authority for this proposition, nor does the caselaw support requiring defendant municipalities to identify a liable party before being entitled to dismissal. *See, e.g., Bigford v. Taylor*, 834 F.2d 1213, 1222-23 (5th Cir. 1988) (affirming district court's holding that Texas county was not liable for justice of the peace's acts and omissions because Texas justices of the peace--unlike county judges--preside over only single districts and are not policymakers for the county, such that plaintiff could not recover for alleged due process violations). Plaintiffs also emphasize the distinction between a judge's administrative and judicial duties that is often critical to determinations of judicial immunity and municipal liability. *See, e.g., Forrester v. White*, 108 S. Ct. 538, 544 (1988) ("The decided cases [on judicial immunity], however, suggest an intelligible distinction between judicial acts and the administrative, legislative, or executive functions that judges may on occasion be assigned by law to perform."); *Krueger v. Reimer*, 66 F.3d 75, 77 (5th Cir. 1995) ("A local judge acting in his or her judicial capacity is not considered a local government official whose actions are attributable to the county.") (citations omitted). For purposes of Article III redressability, however, what matters is not whether Judge Mack's prayer practice is labeled judicial or administrative, but whether the County has power to control the practice. Plaintiffs have not shown that the County has any authority to stop Judge Mack's courtroom prayer practice, so as to allow Plaintiffs' injuries to be redressed by injunctive or declaratory relief against the County.

17 Document No. 7 5 at 20.

\*5 In sum, Plaintiffs' pleadings sufficiently allege that their exposure to the prayers conducted in Judge Mack's courtroom constitutes a concrete, actual injury in fact, but they have persisted in their decision not to seek relief from the person responsible for that injury, namely Judge Mack in his individual capacity, even when he retained counsel and attempted to join issue with Plaintiffs on the merits of their claims. Instead, Plaintiffs chose to allege claims solely against an entity that has no power to stop Judge Mack's courtroom prayer practice. Accordingly, because the County did not cause Plaintiffs' injury and a judgment against the County would not redress Plaintiffs' injury, Plaintiffs lack Article III standing to maintain their claims. Plaintiffs' claims are therefore dismissed without prejudice for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.<sup>18</sup>

18 The County requests dismissal with prejudice, but "[a] decision by a court without subject-matter jurisdiction is not conclusive of the merits of the claim asserted, meaning judgment should be entered without prejudice." *Griener v. United States*, 900 F.3d 700, 705 (5th Cir. 2018) (citations omitted).

#### IV. Order

It is therefore

ORDERED that Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings (Document No. 65) is GRANTED as to lack of standing because Plaintiffs' injuries would not be redressed by a judgment against the County, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs' claims are DISMISSED without prejudice for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

#### All Citations

Slip Copy, 2018 WL 6981153

# Exhibit B



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 15, 2016

The Honorable Dan Patrick  
Lieutenant Governor of Texas  
Post Office Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Ms. Seana Willing  
Executive Director  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct  
Post Office Box 12265  
Austin, Texas 78711-2265

Opinion No. KP-0109

Re: The constitutionality of a volunteer justice court chaplaincy program and opening daily judicial proceedings with prayer (RQ-0099-KP)

Dear Governor Patrick and Ms. Willing:

You have each requested an attorney general opinion regarding the constitutionality of a judge allowing a prayer at the beginning of courtroom proceedings.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Governor Patrick has requested an opinion on the constitutionality of a “volunteer-led Justice Court Chaplaincy Program.” Patrick Request at 2.

As background, the requests arise due to the practice of a sitting Justice of the Peace in Montgomery County who has established a volunteer chaplain program, inviting “all religious leaders of any faith in [his county] to participate.” Patrick Request at 3. Governor Patrick explains that initial motivation for the program was that the Justice of the Peace also acts as coroner and is often required to be a first responder to deaths and must investigate the cause. *Id.* In an effort to provide better comfort and counsel to those present at the scene of the death, and to allow him to focus on his role as investigator, the Justice of the Peace established the chaplain program. *Id.* Governor Patrick further explains that the volunteer chaplains, upon request of a deceased’s friends and family, “provide care and counsel to the mourners in those first-on-scene situations,” and that they are also invited to “give a brief prayer during the opening ceremonies” of the Justice of the Peace’s court proceedings. *Id.* Concerned that these practices may be unconstitutional, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (“Commission”) has strongly cautioned the Justice of the Peace against this chaplain program and his current courtroom prayer practice. *Id.* at 2. Your requests ask this office to address the constitutionality of those and similar practices.

---

<sup>1</sup>Letter from Honorable Dan Patrick, Lt. Gov., to Honorable Ken Paxton, Tex. Att'y Gen. at 1 (Feb. 16, 2016) (“Patrick Request”); Letter from Ms. Seana Willing, Exec. Dir., State Comm'n on Judicial Conduct, to Honorable Ken Paxton, Tex. Att'y Gen. at 1–2 (Feb. 17, 2016) (“Commission Request”), <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/opinion/requests-for-opinions-rqs>.

The Honorable Dan Patrick

(KP-0109)

Ms. Seana Willing

Page 2

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” U.S. CONST. amend. I. “The Fourteenth Amendment imposes those substantive limitations on the legislative power of the States and their political subdivisions.” *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 301 (2000). Your questions therefore require an analysis of whether the courtroom prayer and chaplain practices about which you ask are in violation of the Establishment Clause.

We first address the Commission’s question concerning whether a “moment of silence or a perfunctory acknowledgement of religion by stating words to the effect, ‘God save the State of Texas and this Honorable Court’” would be constitutional. Commission Request at 2. Both the United States Supreme Court and the Texas Supreme Court have longstanding practices of opening their sessions with such an invocation. *See Marsh v. Chambers*, 463 U.S. 783, 786 (1983). While the U.S. Supreme Court has not directly addressed the constitutionality of this practice, it has repeatedly acknowledged it in the context of upholding other practices against Establishment Clause challenges. *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. 1811, 1825 (2014); *Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. 668, 693 (1984) (O’Connor, J., concurring). The Court has explained that the recitation of this type of phrase at the opening of court sessions is like legislative prayer in that it is “part of our heritage and tradition, [and] part of our expressive idiom.” *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1825. Presumably the Court would not continue the practice of beginning its sessions in this manner if it thought doing so violated the Constitution. Courts do not violate the Establishment Clause by opening court proceedings with a statement such as, “God save the State of Texas and this Honorable Court.”

We next address the constitutionality of a chaplain-led prayer like that being performed in the court of the Justice of the Peace about whom you ask.<sup>2</sup> “The opening of sessions of legislative and other deliberative public bodies with prayer is deeply embedded in the history and tradition of this country.” *Marsh*, 463 U.S. at 786. The Justice of the Peace’s courtroom prayer practice as you describe it is in many ways similar to the Town of Greece’s practice of opening its board meetings with prayer, which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld in 2014 against a challenge under the Establishment Clause. *See Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1828. In both instances, religious leaders of any faith are invited to deliver a prayer at the beginning of proceedings. *See id.* at 1816; Patrick Request at 3. No guidance is given about the tone or content of the prayers. *See Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1816; Patrick Request at 3. While the public officials themselves participate in the prayer, the public is not required to do so, and nothing suggests that nonparticipants are disadvantaged or disfavored due to their decision not to participate. *See Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1826; Patrick Request at 4. In upholding the prayers in *Galloway*, the Court emphasized that invocations at the opening of legislative sessions address gatherings of people comprising many different creeds:

These ceremonial prayers strive for the idea that people of many faiths may be united in a community of tolerance and devotion.

---

<sup>2</sup>Although this office does not find facts in the opinion process, we will assume facts described in a request letter as true for purposes of rendering legal advice in an opinion. *See Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. No. JC-0134* (1999) at 1.

The Honorable Dan Patrick

(KP-0109)

Ms. Seana Willing

Page 3

Even those who disagree as to religious doctrine may find common ground in the desire to show respect for the divine in all aspects of their lives and being. Our tradition assumes that adult citizens, firm in their own beliefs, can tolerate and perhaps appreciate a ceremonial prayer delivered by a person of a different faith.

134 S. Ct. at 1823. Justice Kennedy further explained that “legislative bodies do not engage in impermissible coercion merely by exposing constituents to prayer they would rather not hear and in which they need not participate.” *Id.* at 1826–27 (emphasizing that giving “[o]ffense . . . does not equate to coercion”). A court would likely apply the same analysis to a courtroom prayer to open proceedings.<sup>3</sup>

The Commission raises a distinction between the legislative prayer addressed in *Galloway* and the courtroom prayer at issue here. Commission Letter at 5. Courts have frequently addressed and upheld opening prayers before state and local legislative bodies, and they have done so in part based on the history and tradition of such legislative prayers since the Continental Congress. *See, e.g., Marsh*, 463 U.S. at 787; *Pelphrey v. Cobb Cty.*, 547 F.3d 1263, 1278 (11th Cir. 2008) (upholding a county commission’s practice of allowing volunteer leaders of different religions to offer invocations at meetings); *Simpson v. Chesterfield Cty. Bd. of Supervisors*, 404 F.3d 276, 284 (4th Cir. 2005). Courts have said less with regard to prayer in the courtroom. The Commission points to one Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals decision to support its position that judicial prayer, in contrast with legislative prayer, does not survive scrutiny under the Establishment Clause. *See* Commission Letter at 3; *N. Carolina Civil Liberties Union Legal Found. v. Constangy*, 947 F.2d 1145 (4th Cir. 1991); *see also Peters v. Ashcroft*, 383 F.3d 302, 305 n.2 (5th Cir. 2004) (explaining that cases from different circuits do not control the Fifth Circuit’s construction of state and federal law). *Constangy* involved the practice of a state district judge beginning court proceedings each day by personally reciting a religious prayer before the litigants and their attorneys in his courtroom. *Constangy*, 947 F.2d at 1147, 1149. Unlike the facts in the scenario here, the judge in *Constangy* did not invite leaders of all faiths to pray. *Id.* at 1149. Limiting the opinion to “the courtroom prayer at issue,” the court concluded that the judge’s practice was unconstitutional. *Id.* at 1152.

We have found no federal appellate decisions that have directly analyzed courtroom prayer under the Establishment Clause in the twenty-five years since *Constangy* was issued. The *Constangy* court based its decision in part on the distinction it drew between the historical practice of legislative prayer and the lack of such historical practice with regard to courtroom prayer, stating that “[j]udicial prayer in the courtroom is not legitimated under the Establishment Clause by past history or present practice.” *Id.* at 1149. However, as discussed above, the U.S. Supreme Court

<sup>3</sup>While the Commission urges use of the *Lemon* test to determine whether the Establishment Clause is violated, many of the U.S. Supreme Court’s “recent cases simply have not applied the *Lemon* test.” *Van Orden v. Perry*, 545 U.S. 677, 686 (2005); *see* Commission Request at 3; *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602, 612–13 (1971). The Court made no mention of the *Lemon* test in *Galloway*, and it is therefore unlikely that a court would apply it to the similar circumstances presented here.

The Honorable Dan Patrick

(KP-0109)

Ms. Seana Willing

Page 4

has opened its sessions with the prayer, “God save the United States and this Honorable Court,” since at least 1827. *See Elk Grove Unified Sch. Dist. v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1, 29 (2004) (Rehnquist, C.J., concurring in the judgment). Furthermore, the Court has acknowledged that the judiciary has a “long-established practice of prayer at public events.” *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577, 635 (1992). The Court has also explained that “*Marsh* must not be understood as permitting a practice that would amount to a constitutional violation if not for its historical foundation.” *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1819. Thus, other courts deciding the issue may disagree with *Constangy* that prayer in judicial settings lacks historical foundation.

Prior to the Court’s decision in *Galloway*, it used four different tests to evaluate various actions challenged on Establishment Clause grounds: (1) the three-pronged *Lemon* test; (2) the “endorsement” test; (3) the “coercion” test; and (4) the *Van Orden* test based on history. *See Van Orden v. Perry*, 545 U.S. 677, 699–703 (2005); *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577, 584–87 (1992); *Cty. of Allegheny v. Am. Civil Liberties Union*, 492 U.S. 573, 592–93 (1989); *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602, 612–13 (1971). Although it was difficult to predict which test the Court would apply to a specific set of facts, the court in *Constangy* reviewed the constitutionality of the courtroom prayer under the *Lemon* test. *See Constangy*, 947 F.2d at 1147–49.

However, since the decision in *Constangy*, the Supreme Court, addressing facts analogous to those here, provided clear guidance regarding the constitutionality of prayer before governmental entities and has combined an evaluation of history and coercion.<sup>4</sup> As in *Galloway*,

<sup>4</sup> Perhaps the clearest explanation for the variety of approaches the Court has utilized in Establishment Clause jurisprudence comes from the late Justice Scalia:

As to the Court’s invocation of the *Lemon* test: Like some ghoul in a late-night horror movie that repeatedly sits up in its grave and shuffles abroad, after being repeatedly killed and buried, *Lemon* stalks our Establishment Clause jurisprudence once again, frightening the little children and school attorneys of Center Moriches Union Free School District. Its most recent burial, only last Term, was, to be sure, not fully six feet under. . . . Over the years, however, no fewer than five of the currently sitting Justices have, in their own opinions, personally driven pencils through the creature’s heart (the author of today’s opinion repeatedly), and a sixth has joined an opinion doing so.

The secret of the *Lemon* test’s survival, I think, is that it is so easy to kill. It is there to scare us (and our audience) when we wish it to do so, but we can command it to return to the tomb at will. When we wish to strike down a practice it forbids, we invoke it; when we wish to uphold a practice it forbids, we ignore it entirely. Sometimes, we take a middle course, calling its three prongs no more than helpful signposts. Such a docile and useful monster is worth keeping around, at least in a somnolent state; one never knows when one might need him.

*Lamb’s Chapel v. Ctr. Moriches Union Free Sch. Dist.*, 508 U.S. 384, 398–99 (1993) (Scalia, J., concurring) (quotation marks and citations omitted). Cases like *Marsh* and *Galloway* illustrate that the Court has not utilized the *Lemon* test for prayers before governmental sessions.

The Honorable Dan Patrick

(KP-0109)

Ms. Seana Willing

Page 5

nothing in the facts described suggests that the Justice of the Peace compels or coerces individuals in his courtroom to engage in a religious observance. *See Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1825. Instead, the bailiff provides an opportunity for individuals to leave the courtroom during the prayer and explains that participation in the prayer will have no effect on the decisions of the court. Patrick Request at 4; *cf. Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1826 (explaining that although board members participated, they did not solicit participation from the public, and nothing in the record indicated that citizens were treated differently based on whether they participated in the prayer). Accordingly, we believe a Justice of the Peace's practice of opening daily court proceedings with a prayer by a volunteer chaplain as you describe is sufficiently similar to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Galloway* such that a court would likely be compelled to agree with *Galloway* that the long-standing tradition of opening a governmental proceeding with prayer does not violate the Establishment Clause.<sup>5</sup>

Finally, we address the constitutionality of a volunteer chaplain program, whereby religious leaders, upon request, provide counsel to persons in distress. *See* Patrick Request at 9. While we have found no court decisions addressing a volunteer chaplain program exactly like that described, courts have upheld chaplain programs in a variety of other contexts. In *Marsh*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Nebraska Legislature's hiring of a chaplain, who was chosen by the Legislative Council and paid out of public funds. 463 U.S. at 784–85, 794. Courts in other jurisdictions have likewise upheld the hiring of chaplains by a county hospital, prisons, and military establishments in order to provide counseling and guidance to individuals who request it. *See Carter v. Broadlawns Med. Ctr.*, 857 F.2d 448, 457 (8th Cir. 1988); *Johnson-Bey v. Lane*, 863 F.2d 1308, 1312 (7th Cir. 1988); *Katcoff v. Marsh*, 755 F.2d 223, 237 (2d Cir. 1985). In each of these cases, the chaplains were paid by public funds, creating more significant Establishment Clause concerns than exist here, where the chaplains serve on a voluntary basis without cost to the taxpayer and only upon request of those who wish to receive the chaplain's assistance. A court would therefore likely conclude that the volunteer chaplain program as you describe it does not violate the Establishment Clause.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup>Nothing in the facts presented to us indicates "that the invocations denigrate nonbelievers or religious minorities, threaten damnation, or preach conversion." *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1823. The U.S. Supreme Court has explained that were such circumstances to exist, the questions presented would be different, and they could raise constitutional concerns. *Id.*

<sup>6</sup>The Commission has advised this office that it likewise "does not consider a judge's operation of a Court Chaplaincy Program to be an Establishment Clause issue." Brief from Ms. Seana Willing, Exec. Dir., State Comm'n on Judicial Conduct, to Honorable Ken Paxton, Tex. Att'y Gen. at 1–2 (Mar. 4, 2016).

The Honorable Dan Patrick

(KP-0109)

Ms. Seana Willing

Page 6

**S U M M A R Y**

A Justice of the Peace does not violate the Establishment Clause by opening a court session with the statement “God save the State of Texas and this Honorable Court.”

A court would likely conclude that a Justice of the Peace’s practice of opening daily court proceedings with a prayer by a volunteer chaplain as you describe is sufficiently similar to the facts in *Galloway* such that the practice does not violate the Establishment Clause.

A court would likely conclude that the volunteer chaplain program you describe, which allows religious leaders to provide counseling to individuals in distress upon request, does not violate the Establishment Clause.

Very truly yours,



KEN PAXTON  
Attorney General of Texas

BRANTLEY STARR

Deputy First Assistant Attorney General

VIRGINIA K. HOELSCHER

Chair, Opinion Committee

# Exhibit C

## NewsRoom

7/30/96 St. Petersburg Times 3  
1996 WLNR 2378937

St Petersburg Times  
Copyright 1996, The St. Petersburg Times

July 30, 1996

Section: NORTH PINELLAS TIMES

COURT HOLDS FIRST SESSION

Chief Judge Susan Schaeffer, top photo, officially called court to order for the first time in the Pinellas County Criminal Justice Center on Monday morning, marking the start of business in the new \$54-million building. State Attorney Bernie McCabe, Public Defender Robert Jagger and Clerk of Courts Karleen DeBlaker took part in the ceremony, and Sheriff Everett Rice played the role of bailiff. At left, Schaeffer greets the Rev. Donald Kanabay, a priest who has for years worked as a court reporter and said a prayer for the occasion as well as keeping the minutes of the hearing.

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, SCOTT KEELER, (2); COLOR PHOTO, SCOTT KEELER

Chief Judge Susan Schaeffer officially called court to order for the first time in the new Pinellas County Criminal Justice Center Monday morning (ran NT); Chief Judge Susan Schaeffer greets the Rev. Donald Kanabay. (ran NT, CITY & STATE); Chief Judge Susan Schaeffer greets the Rev. Donald Kanabay. (ran SE, LA)

TYPE: STAND ALONE ART

---- Index References ----

Region: (USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); Florida (1FL79); North America (1NO39))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (COURT; COURTS KARLEEN DEBLAKER; NEW PINELLAS COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER; PINELLAS COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER; SHERIFF EVERETT RICE) (Bernie McCabe; Chief; Donald Kanabay; Donald Kanabay.; Robert Jagger; Schaeffer; State Attorney; Susan Schaeffer)

Word Count: 197

---

End of Document

© 2019 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.

# Exhibit D

## NewsRoom

4/1/85 Hous. Chron. 114  
1985 WLNR 1239288

Houston Chronicle  
Copyright © 1985 Houston Chronicle

April 1, 1985

Section: 1

Minister turns into surprise witness

AIKEN, S.C.

AIKEN, S.C. - A minister called on to give the invocation before a county court session turned out to be facing charges.

"I didn't realize he was a defendant in this court when I asked him to lead us in prayer," said Circuit Judge Frank Eppes.

The Rev. Gilbert Gooden of Andrews, S.C., was released from the current court term and told by the judge to return at the next term.

Gooden said he had stood up when the judge asked if there was a preacher in the courtroom to lead the customary opening prayer.

The minister was in court to answer resisting arrest charges filed after his car was clocked at 91 mph on Interstate 20, said prosecutor Bill Weeks.

### ---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Government (1GO80))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (AIKEN; REV) (Bill Weeks; Frank Eppes; Gilbert Gooden; Gooden)

Edition: NO STAR

Word Count: 137

---

End of Document

© 2019 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.

# Exhibit E



# Exhibit F



# Exhibit G

# THE DAILY CHIEFTAIN

VOL. 3, NO. 157

VINITA, IND. TER., SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1901.

PRICE 10c WEEK

**MRS. E.R.WALLER**

Is Decided by a Popular Vote  
of the People of Vinita  
to be the

**HANDSOMEST LADY**

In the City in an Impartial Con-  
test Preliminary to the Choos-  
ing of the Fairest Daughter of  
the Territory Embraced in the  
Louisiana Purchase.

Mrs. E. R. Waller is the hand-  
somest lady in Vinita, being so  
decided by a vote in which all the  
people, irrespective of whether  
they were Chieftain subscribers or  
not, were invited to participate.

The contest for the purpose of  
honoring the handsomest lady res-  
iding in the territory acquired by  
the Louisiana purchase, was in-  
augurated by the Globe-Democrat  
of St. Louis.

That paper requested the lead-  
ing paper of the towns and cities of  
the states and territories included  
in the purchase to ascertain the  
name of the prettiest lady—mar-  
ried or single—in their several  
localities. Each state and terri-  
tory will send a representative to  
St. Louis, she being furnished a  
chaperon and all her expenses  
paid, where she will receive many  
social honors.

From the aggregation of beauty  
the handsomest lady in the ac-  
quired territory will be chosen.  
Not by standing them in line, but  
by an unannounced committee who  
will, without impertinence, view  
the charms of the ladies at a swell  
reception at which all the world's  
notables in St. Louis will be present.

To represent Indian Territory a  
lady will be chosen by a commit-  
tee from the photographs of the  
choice of each town.

The contest was arranged so  
that the poorest could compete  
with the richest. Only one vote  
was allowed each individual. This,  
of course, debarred any person  
from purchasing a large number  
of papers and voting a bulk of  
coupons for their especial favorite.

No person interested in the re-  
sult was permitted to be present  
when the ballots were counted be-  
cause each ballot bore the name of  
the voter, and it was desired that  
no lady mentioned should know  
who had failed to vote for her.

Mr. Keller Walker supervised  
the counting of the votes.

Mrs. J. R. Carselowe was sec-  
ond choice.

Her is the vote:

Mrs. E. R. Waller, 166; Mrs. J.

R. Carselowe, 107; Mrs. Claude

Walton, 81; Miss Fannie Knight,

55; Miss Carrie Van Pelt, 52; Miss

Agnes Ficklin, 43; Mrs. Ed Miller,

41; Miss Mabel Miller, 37; Miss

Ida Beatty, 36; scattering, 44;

Total, 662.

#### Dawes Commission Dates.

The Dawes commission has fixed  
the following dates and places for the  
enrollment of Cherokee Freedmen:

Fort Gibson April 1 to 30 inclusive  
in 1901.

Vinita May 8 to 25, 1901.

Nowata May 29 to June 20, 1901.

#### FEDERAL COURT.

The First Session Convened at Mus-  
kogee Twelve Years Ago.

On April 1, 1889, twelve years  
ago today, the first United States  
court ever opened in the Indian  
territory, and what is now Okla-  
homa territory, was opened in old  
Phoenix hall in the town of Mus-  
kogee, says the Times of that city.

On the morning of April 1st,  
Judge James M. Shackelford,  
United States Attorney Z. T. Wal-  
road, United States Marshal T. B.  
Needles and the clerk of the  
United States court for the Indian  
territory, William Nelson, arrived  
on the early morning train about  
seven o'clock. They were met at  
the depot by a committee of the  
citizens, headed by C. W. Turner,  
and conducted into the dining hall  
which was then kept by J. H. Mc-  
Quarie, now of Waggoner, near  
where the Union depot hotel now  
stands.

Each of the court officials above  
named wore a silk hat when they  
stepped off the train, and after  
they had eaten their breakfast they  
were conducted to some rooms  
that had been prepared for them  
in a building just north of where  
the Union Depot hotel now stands  
and, after they had been assigned  
to their quarters, Mr. C. W. Turn-  
er called Mr. Needles to one side  
and told him in a very confiden-  
tial way that they had better leave  
their silk hats in their rooms as  
the cow boys were liable to take a  
crack at them if they wore them  
up town. That was the last that  
was ever seen of those plug hats.  
Col. Needles says he gave his to a  
negro, and we think it is the one  
that Ketch Lorin wears around  
town now.

About 10 o'clock the officials,  
together with a large number of  
lawyers who had congregated here,  
went to the old Phoenix hall where  
court was opened by the above  
named officials, Rev. B. Y. Brie,  
of the Methodist church, at this  
place, opened the court with pray-  
er.

The court was only in session a  
short time on the morning of the  
first when it adjourned to meet on  
the morning of the second. Judge  
Shackelford and Maj. Walron

formulated rules governing the  
admission of attorneys to  
practice in the court which were  
promulgated that evening and on

Tuesday morning a large num-  
ber of lawyers were admitted to prac-  
tice, among them Maj. Walron,

who was the first lawyer admitted  
to practice in the court. D. Stew-

art Elliott, of Coffeyville, Kansas,  
who was killed a year ago in the

Philippines, was the second, T.

N. Foster, of South McAlester,  
the third, N. B. Maxey, of Mus-

kogee was No. 4 and W. A. Pasco,

W. M. Harrison, J. C. Ralls, S. E.

Jackson, Col. E. C. Boudinot and  
others.

The first case filed in the  
United States court was filed by  
E. C. Boudinot and was a replevin  
case for a stallion, and Bud T. Kell  
served the writ as deputy of Mar-

shal Needles, and it was amusing  
to hear Marshal Needles instruct

Bud how to serve the writ.

The first case tried in the United  
States court by a jury was the

case of George Waller vs. R. M.

Gilmore, and tried on the 3rd day

of June, 1890. The suit was

brought by J. G. Ralls, now of



# CHIEFTAIN

VINITA, IND. TER., SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1901.

PRICE 10c WEEK

#### FEDERAL COURT.

The First Session Convened at Mus-  
kogee Twelve Years Ago.

# Millinery!

# Millinery!!

Ladies who desire to purchase a hat for Easter wear will  
make a mistake if they do so without seeing the line we are  
showing. We have never shown a more stylish or artistic  
line of fine hats. Everybody who has inspected our milli-  
nery has complimented us on the style and quality, and the  
prices we are asking are certainly much below what our  
competitors are asking for similar hats. We are showing  
a large assortment of

## Street and Walking Hats.

A great many styles in this line are shown only by us. If  
you want to see the latest and nobbiest things on the market  
for street wear you should see what we are showing.  
Misses and Childrens' hats are always hard to find which  
look like they are worth the money. Ours are right in  
style and price, and we have a large line to select from.  
If you want your money's worth buy your millinery from

## Badgett Mercantile Co.

The "Good Goods" Store.

We Have.

=150,000=

## FEET OF LUMBER

Now in transit which will arrive in a very few days. Our sheds are  
not sufficient to hold it, therefore we are going to make prices that  
will sell it. Phone 42. Don't forget that it is

## Williamson & Company,

## Furniture! \* Furniture!!

Remember we have a stock equal to a  
wholesale stock and can please you in  
anything you wish from a 50c chair to a  
\$40.00 BEDROOM SUIT.

## HARDWARE.

We always lead in this line and can be  
depended on to have in stock a complete  
line of shelf and heavy hardware,

## Stoves, Ranges, Gasoline Stoves,

Barbed Wire, Nails, Screen Doors and  
Screen Wire Poultry Netting, etc.

Complete line of Coffins and Caskets  
always in stock. Yours for business,

**Sam R. Frazee  
& Company.**

**App. 16**

# Exhibit H



# Exhibit I

**SUPERIOR TIMES.**

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN.

**NEWS IN BRIEF.****The Fatal Elevator.**

Two servants who were in an elevator in the St. Omor hotel, New York, on the 20th, were shot to death. One was killed in the killing of Johnson and Tucker at Long Tom, more than a year ago. Wm. Yukon had been tried and was convicted of murder in the killing of his wife, Mrs. Yukon, last week, but he would have chances of venue and his case was moved to Fresno county. The mob was all masked except five.

**Battalion Accidents.**

A Cambodian, Ind., dispatch of the 20th, says: "At 1 o'clock today an express train on the Pittsburgh division of the Baltimore and Ohio railway, when it reached the city of Pittsburgh, ran on to a rock that had fallen on the track. Eugene Ben Pritchard, residing at Connellsville, and an unknown man were instantly killed. The train was severely damaged. Two other passengers were seriously injured. Pritchard died with his hand on the switches."

**Political Notes.**

The Ohio Republicans met in convention at Cincinnati on the 20th, and nominated Charles F. Adams for governor, and John C. Nash for attorney general; J. F. Vigore for auditor-general.

The American Tract Society. The American Tract Society held its annual meeting at New York city on the 1st inst. The available resources during 1878 were \$1,000,000, and expenditures during the same time, \$60,000.

**Confusion at the Crime.**

The Boston Herald's Salsbury special says: "John McDowell confesses the authorship of the Jersey City bank robbery, and that he was in New York for three days while officers were working up the case."

**Band of Thieves.**

Frank Bailey and Nick Shappler (white) and John Hall, Henry McNeary, Ed Little, Alfred Smith, and Tom Heisler (colored) made up their gang, and robbing the Bank of America at Mifflinboro, Penn., on the 20th. The wagon loads of plunder were recovered.

**The Four Per Cent.**

The treasurer of the United States has decided that 4 per cent, refunding additional interest will be paid by the government making up their seasonal return of average capital subject to dates the law authorizes in the case of United States bonds.

**Hurricane from.**

The governor of Yakutsk, Eastern Siberia, has received intelligence from Professor Nordenskiold of the Arctic expedition to May 3. The professor announced that he had been compelled to leave the Vega because of the way of Behring strait and Suez canals telegraphic dispatch from Irkutsk, reports the Vega has since arrived in Behring strait.

**The Dismounted City.**

A violent hurricane at Szegedin, Hungary, on the 20th, destroyed the works prepared for restoring the railway and filling the breaches in the dam. Bridges fell with such violence that they could not be repaired.

As the employers will not pay the price asked, and the men will not reduce it, the fire in the vast wastes of iron manufactures at Pittsburg, and the vicinity will continue to burn.

A small misadventure has occurred between the masters and iron workers at Pittsburg, which threatens to lead to grave results. The iron workers have agreed to fix the price of paddling at \$15 per ton—the same last year. The manufacturers say they cannot afford to pay the rate, and that Krieger was in collusion with the iron workers to raise the price.

As the employers will not reduce it, the fire in the vast wastes of iron manufactures at Pittsburg, and the vicinity will continue to burn.

**Financially Embarrassed.**

The Merchantile bank of Montreal, agents of the Canadian central bank, has discontinued its business. It was founded in 1849; now, circulation \$170,000; deposits \$250,000; other liabilities \$12,000. The assets are put down as follows: Bills discounted \$20,000; overdrafts \$10,000; notes receivable \$100,000.

More failures in Great Britain: John and Robert Fenton, cotton spinners, Bingley, £100,000; Mathew Dickie, mill owner, £100,000; and James Goldsill, £100,000.

Shortages of values of property has caused the Souton savings bank, of Boston, Mass., to be required from doing further business.

**Fatal Shootings.**

Another fatal shooting, the schooner William Thompson, of Gloucester, Mass., has been lost with a crew of fourteen men. They leave seven widows and two orphans.

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

The Ava was an iron screw steamer, 2,600 tons, built in 1872.

A letter from Panas Arzona, Costa Rica, to his wife, Lucia Deniz, J. O. Bird, Cora Partono, Melora Partono and Josephine Hanlon, and child, aged two years, was sent home to Lucia.

**Roads—Boulevards.**

At the cabinet meeting on the 20th, the attorney general gave an opinion in relation to the Eds' jetties, to the effect that Capt. Kalle is entitled to the payment of half a million dollars for the completion of his contract, notwithstanding the slight filling up of the river above the jetties, and the secretary of war has ordered the payment of the same.

**Crash by a Whirlwind.**

During a thunder storm on the 20th, a whirlwind struck the small mail carrier Ramey, pausing on the Calumet river, Ia., and tearing it and causing the house to sink in thirty feet of water. The captain 2d engineer, and his wife, and son, and daughter, and two sons were drowned.

While John Kline, the Waller steamboat was crossing Niagara river on the 20th, at Lewiston, N. Y., the boat was upset by an eddy and both were drowned.

**Native Plague.**

John T. Vincent and four other men, while travelling from Fort Kochi to Fort Astambula recently, were attacked by City Yanktonians Indians. After fighting twenty hours and killing eleven of the redskins, the Indians fled, but when the Indians escaped, they were obliged to abandon their horses and wagons. The Indians near Fort McLeod are killing white men's cattle to avoid starvation.

**Cattle Plague.**

A Louisville Courier Journal special to the Times says: "The 'Cattle plague' or 'Black wood' war' has again broken out. On the upper Tygart creek, in Carter county, Wyo. Underwood, while peacefully at work in a corn field, was shot and killed by a member of the gang. John Lumpkins, who was shot and instantly killed, the youngest son and favorite brother, was severely injured. James Boswell, a boy, was badly injured by a bullet.

Robert Jackson, aged 20, and two others 12, were drowned in Third Lake, near Waukegan, Illinois, on the 20th, by the upsetting of a canoe.

Charles Clark and Charles Wells, boys of 14 and 12, were drowned in a pond near their home.

White John Kline, the Waller steamboat was crossing Niagara river on the 20th, at Lewiston, N. Y., the boat was upset by an eddy and both were drowned.

**Drowned.**

At the cabinet meeting on the 20th, Mr. McNeary, the attorney general, having received his employer's daughter and son, Eli, as soon as he discovered the foul work, seized his gun and started pursuit of Eli. When he found him, he was returning to fort Kochi, when his horse, McNeary sprang from ambush, wrested the gun from Eli's hands and shot him dead. A posse is in pursuit of the villain.

**Volcanic Eruption.**

The volcano of Meana, Kiso, is in full eruption. Three new craters appeared near the town of Bandaz, at the northwest foot of the mountain. Streams of lava are flowing from them. The neighboring villages are threatened with destruction, and there is great alarm among the inhabitants.

A small crater has opened on Mount Kiso, endangering Blanca valley, Bandazo and Castiglione. Clouds of ash overhanging Redmont, which is in almost total darkness.

**Navy Warfare.**

An engagement was taken place, in Oregon, Nov. 19, between the Chinese gunboats Emeihai and Canton, and the French armoured frigate Independence. The two small vessels, however, had been captured by the French.

An engagement was experienced on the 20th, between the U.S. gunboat of the 1st class, Capt. J. H. Butler, November 1, 1872, and the second class have been awarded to Capt. Wm. Burke, of the schooner Andrew Jackson, for saving six men from the bark, the 20th, at 10:30 p.m. At 9:30 p.m. on the 19th, at Lake Michigan, and to Captain Patrick Lagan of the schooner C. Wells, of Buffalo, New York, and Frank D. Watson, of the bark, the 20th, on the same vessel, for the rescue of the crew, which had been swept overboard the night of October 18, 1878, at Lake Erie.

**A Brilliant Hotel Fire.**

On the morning of the 20th, a fire, about 500 feet square, part of Hotel and Nadwala way, near Bernard and Bolckow, about 25 miles north of St. Joseph. It took place in a building 100x100, demolishing houses, uprooting and twisting of trees, destroying property of all descriptions. It took a northeasterly direction, and when several miles east of Bernard, had a track a mile wide, was devasted.

**A California Earthquake.**

At Bakerfield, Cal., on the 20th, a band of seventy-five men captured the jail and lynched Thomas and William Yeomans in their cells. When Yeomans was chained to the floor, and as the chain could not be loosened, he was hung with the shackles on his

feet, and was there several times before being set free. The Yankees were in jail for the killing of Johnson and Tucker at Long Tom, more than a year ago. Wm. Yukon had been tried and was convicted of murder in the killing of his wife, Mrs. Yukon, last week, but he would have chances of venue and his case was moved to Fresno county. The mob was all masked except five.

**Underhill's Veto.**

A Cambodian, Ind., dispatch of the 20th, says: "At 1 o'clock today an express train on the Pittsburgh division of the Baltimore and Ohio railway, when it reached the city of Pittsburgh, ran on to a rock that had fallen on the track. Eugene Ben Pritchard, residing at Connellsville, and an unknown man were instantly killed. The train was severely damaged. Two other passengers were seriously injured. Pritchard died with his hand on the switches."

**Political Notes.**

The Ohio Republicans met in convention at Cincinnati on the 20th, and nominated Charles F. Adams for governor, and John C. Nash for attorney general; J. F. Vigore for auditor-general.

**Grecks and Turks.**

Some Greeks brigands recently ambushed forty-six Turkish soldiers in the forest district of Trichala, killed fourteen, cut their throats in pieces and hung the pieces on trees.

**The American Tract Society.**

The American Tract Society held its annual meeting at New York city on the 1st inst. The available resources during 1878 were \$1,000,000, and expenditures during the same time, \$60,000.

**Confusion at the Crime.**

The Boston Herald's Salsbury special says: "John McDowell confesses the authorship of the Jersey City bank robbery, and that he was in New York for three days while officers were working up the case."

**Band of Thieves.**

The treasurer of the United States has decided that 4 per cent, refunding additional interest will be paid by the government making up their seasonal return of average capital subject to dates the law authorizes in the case of United States bonds.

**Hurricane from.**

The Merchantile bank of Montreal, agents of the Canadian central bank, has discontinued its business. It was founded in 1849; now, circulation \$170,000; deposits \$250,000; other liabilities \$12,000. The assets are put down as follows: Bills discounted \$20,000; overdrafts \$10,000; notes receivable \$100,000.

**Shortages of values of property.**

John and Robert Fenton, cotton spinners, Bingley, £100,000. Mathew Dickie, mill owner, £100,000. James Goldsill, £100,000.

**Wallace's Return.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

The Ava was an iron screw steamer, 2,600 tons, built in 1872.

**Steamship.**

A letter from Panas Arzona, Costa Rica, to his wife, Lucia Deniz, J. O. Bird, Cora Partono, Melora Partono and Josephine Hanlon, and child, aged two years, was sent home to Lucia.

**Roads.**

During a thunder storm on the 20th, a whirlwind struck the small mail carrier Ramey, pausing on the Calumet river, Ia., and tearing it and causing the house to sink in thirty feet of water. The captain 2d engineer, and his wife, and son, and daughter, and two sons were drowned.

**Native Plague.**

Another fatal shooting, the schooner William Thompson, of Gloucester, Mass., has been lost with a crew of fourteen men. They leave seven widows and two orphans.

**Roads—Boulevards.**

At the cabinet meeting on the 20th, the attorney general gave an opinion in relation to the Eds' jetties, to the effect that Capt. Kalle is entitled to the payment of half a million dollars for the completion of his contract, notwithstanding the slight filling up of the river above the jetties, and the secretary of war has ordered the payment of the same.

**Crash by a Whirlwind.**

During a thunder storm on the 20th, a whirlwind struck the small mail carrier Ramey, pausing on the Calumet river, Ia., and tearing it and causing the house to sink in thirty feet of water. The captain 2d engineer, and his wife, and son, and daughter, and two sons were drowned.

**Drowned.**

At the cabinet meeting on the 20th, Mr. McNeary, the attorney general, having received his employer's daughter and son, Eli, as soon as he discovered the foul work, seized his gun and started pursuit of Eli. When he found him, he was returning to fort Kochi, when his horse, McNeary sprang from ambush, wrested the gun from Eli's hands and shot him dead. A posse is in pursuit of the villain.

**Volcanic Eruption.**

The volcano of Meana, Kiso, is in full eruption. Three new craters appeared near the town of Bandaz, at the northwest foot of the mountain. Streams of lava are flowing from them. The neighboring villages are threatened with destruction, and there is great alarm among the inhabitants.

A small crater has opened on Mount Kiso, endangering Blanca valley, Bandazo and Castiglione. Clouds of ash overhanging Redmont, which is in almost total darkness.

**Navy Warfare.**

An engagement was taken place, in Oregon, Nov. 19, between the Chinese gunboats Emeihai and Canton, and the French armoured frigate Independence. The two small vessels, however, had been captured by the French.

An engagement was experienced on the 20th, between the U.S. gunboat of the 1st class, Capt. J. H. Butler, November 1, 1872, and the second class have been awarded to Capt. Wm. Burke, of the schooner Andrew Jackson, for saving six men from the bark, the 20th, at 10:30 p.m. At 9:30 p.m. on the 19th, at Lake Michigan, and to Captain Patrick Lagan of the schooner C. Wells, of Buffalo, New York, and Frank D. Watson, of the bark, the 20th, on the same vessel, for the rescue of the crew, which had been swept overboard the night of October 18, 1878, at Lake Erie.

**A Brilliant Hotel Fire.**

On the morning of the 20th, a fire, about 500 feet square, part of Hotel and Nadwala way, near Bernard and Bolckow, about 25 miles north of St. Joseph. It took place in a building 100x100, demolishing houses, uprooting and twisting of trees, destroying property of all descriptions. It took a northeasterly direction, and when several miles east of Bernard, had a track a mile wide, was devasted.

**A California Earthquake.**

At Bakerfield, Cal., on the 20th, a band of seventy-five men captured the jail and lynched Thomas and William Yeomans in their cells. When Yeomans was chained to the floor, and as the chain could not be loosened, he was hung with the shackles on his

feet, and was there several times before being set free. The Yankees were in jail for the killing of Johnson and Tucker at Long Tom, more than a year ago. Wm. Yukon had been tried and was convicted of murder in the killing of his wife, Mrs. Yukon, last week, but he would have chances of venue and his case was moved to Fresno county. The mob was all masked except five.

**Underhill's Veto.**

A Cambodian, Ind., dispatch of the 20th, says: "At 1 o'clock today an express train on the Pittsburgh division of the Baltimore and Ohio railway, when it reached the city of Pittsburgh, ran on to a rock that had fallen on the track. Eugene Ben Pritchard, residing at Connellsville, and an unknown man were instantly killed. The train was severely damaged. Two other passengers were seriously injured. Pritchard died with his hand on the switches."

**Political Notes.**

The Ohio Republicans met in convention at Cincinnati on the 20th, and nominated Charles F. Adams for governor, and John C. Nash for attorney general; J. F. Vigore for auditor-general.

**Grecks and Turks.**

Some Greeks brigands recently ambushed forty-six Turkish soldiers in the forest district of Trichala, killed fourteen, cut their throats in pieces and hung the pieces on trees.

**Steamship.**

The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

The Ava was an iron screw steamer, 2,600 tons, built in 1872.

**Steamship.**

A letter from Panas Arzona, Costa Rica, to his wife, Lucia Deniz, J. O. Bird, Cora Partono, Melora Partono and Josephine Hanlon, and child, aged two years, was sent home to Lucia.

**Roads.**

During a thunder storm on the 20th, a whirlwind struck the small mail carrier Ramey, pausing on the Calumet river, Ia., and tearing it and causing the house to sink in thirty feet of water. The captain 2d engineer, and his wife, and son, and daughter, and two sons were drowned.

**Drowned.**

At the cabinet meeting on the 20th, Mr. McNeary, the attorney general, having received his employer's daughter and son, Eli, as soon as he discovered the foul work, seized his gun and started pursuit of Eli. When he found him, he was returning to fort Kochi, when his horse, McNeary sprang from ambush, wrested the gun from Eli's hands and shot him dead. A posse is in pursuit of the villain.

**Volcanic Eruption.**

The volcano of Meana, Kiso, is in full eruption. Three new craters appeared near the town of Bandaz, at the northwest foot of the mountain. Streams of lava are flowing from them. The neighboring villages are threatened with destruction, and there is great alarm among the inhabitants.

A small crater has opened on Mount Kiso, endangering Blanca valley, Bandazo and Castiglione. Clouds of ash overhanging Redmont, which is in almost total darkness.

**Navy Warfare.**

At the cabinet meeting on the 20th, the attorney general gave an opinion in relation to the Eds' jetties, to the effect that Capt. Kalle is entitled to the payment of half a million dollars for the completion of his contract, notwithstanding the slight filling up of the river above the jetties, and the secretary of war has ordered the payment of the same.

**Crash by a Whirlwind.**

During a thunder storm on the 20th, a whirlwind struck the small mail carrier Ramey, pausing on the Calumet river, Ia., and tearing it and causing the house to sink in thirty feet of water. The captain 2d engineer, and his wife, and son, and daughter, and two sons were drowned.

**Drowned.**

At the cabinet meeting on the 20th, Mr. McNeary, the attorney general, having received his employer's daughter and son, Eli, as soon as he discovered the foul work, seized his gun and started pursuit of Eli. When he found him, he was returning to fort Kochi, when his horse, McNeary sprang from ambush, wrested the gun from Eli's hands and shot him dead. A posse is in pursuit of the villain.

**Volcanic Eruption.**

The volcano of Meana, Kiso, is in full eruption. Three new craters appeared near the town of Bandaz, at the northwest foot of the mountain. Streams of lava are flowing from them. The neighboring villages are threatened with destruction, and there is great alarm among the inhabitants.

A small crater has opened on Mount Kiso, endangering Blanca valley, Bandazo and Castiglione. Clouds of ash overhanging Redmont, which is in almost total darkness.

**Navy Warfare.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**Steamship.**

A Calcutta dispatch of the 20th, says: The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer Ava was sunk in collision with another vessel, and the crew of the ship and four passengers were drowned.

**VETOED.****The President Sends Another Document to the House****Giving His Reasons for Withholding His Approval****From the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation Bills****ment**

# Exhibit J



# Exhibit K

## NewsRoom

11/23/85 Hous. Chron. 11  
1985 WLNR 1247161

Houston Chronicle  
Copyright © 1985 Houston Chronicle

November 23, 1985

Section: 1

The bench and the Bible/State district judge refuses to leave his faith at courtroom door

CATHY GORDON

MONTGOMERY COUNTY state District Judge Olen Underwood stands behind the bench facing the jury, bows his head and tends to the first order of court.

"Ladies and gentlemen, will you pray with me?"

In the 284th State District Court in Montgomery County, Underwood's invocation at the start of jury trials is as routine as the swearing in of witnesses.

Jurors often echo "Amen" and thank him for the practice after court.

But the ritual has yet to receive the blessing of some members of the legal community who view it as an improper mix of church and state and a violation of the Constitution and of defendants' fundamental rights.

The grumbling is nothing new to the former Houston Oilers linebacker, a devout Baptist and family man. It is one of the reasons he now issues pretrial instructions informing attorneys of, among other things, his opening prayer and giving them the opportunity to object.

So far, no attorney has, said the 42-year-old judge. "At least not to my face. But I'm aware of the misconceptions about the religion issue, and they've got their chance."

His religious practice is not the only aspect of Underwood's courtroom style that has raised the issue of constitutionality.

Underwood once ordered a Baytown man who had failed to make child support payments to refrain from siring "any further children of this marriage or any other relationship" during his three years probation.

The man had failed to provide support for three children of a former marriage, and his second wife was pregnant.

Talk of the ruling enlivened lawyers' lunchtime conversations for months.

Underwood said of the ruling: "I know it's not enforceable and I would never in a million years try to enforce it, but the defendant doesn't know that. Face it, he had no business having more kids when he couldn't provide for the ones he had."

The defendant didn't object to the judge's conditions, but he also didn't make the child support payments as ordered and eventually disappeared from the area.

"A lot of times I tell people things that I know they won't do because I've got to find some way to reach them. I try to undo a lifetime environment in a two-minute lecture at the bench."

In February, Underwood garnered unwanted national publicity and criticism from several newspapers because he signed a temporary restraining order barring the free-distribution Magnolia Potpourri newspaper from publishing material that could "in any way publicly humiliate, embarrass or ridicule" Montgomery County Commissioner Weldon Locke. The judge signed the order at the request of Locke's attorney after the newspaper's publisher printed a letter to the editor raising questions about the commissioner's romantic relationship with the county auditor.

The order appeared to violate the broad First Amendment protection the press enjoys from prior restraint by courts of law. Underwood later terminated the order when Locke's attorney asked that a hearing on the matter be canceled.

Underwood has steadfastly refused interviews on the subject.

"There's been enough publicity about that to sink a battleship," he said.

His court clerk, Barbara Adamick, maintains he regretted signing the order from the moment the pen hit paper.

"All I know is he did sign it, and I think he regretted it from that moment on," Adamick said.

While Underwood remains silent about that ruling, he has a fast retort to complaints of religious overtones in the courtroom:

"If it's unconstitutional, so be it. But I made no bones about it when I took the bench. My religion goes with me."

So much so, claims one Conroe defense lawyer, that a "specially revised" Miranda warning could apply to Underwood's court: "In the event you can't afford your own preacher, the court will appoint you one."

Coined the "Underwood warning," the joke refers to a list of volunteer counselors - most of them ministers - who have been approved by the judge to counsel probationers.

Some defense attorneys suggest it's not merely coincidence that the deeply religious judge has recruited men of the cloth for the task.

By Underwood's own admission, the list of 54 approved counselors is 90 percent ministers. But those names originated from suggestions by the defendants and their attorneys, he said.

"When they come before me for probation, they are asked to pick a counselor, either one of their own or one from the already approved list," Underwood said. That person then has to "covenant" with the court and agree to abide by set guidelines to help the probationer, he said.

"I sometimes have suggested to them that the logical place to look might be at their church," Underwood said.

The fact that ministers are connected in any way to the counseling program annoys some members of the Montgomery County Bar Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

One defense lawyer who asked that his name be withheld because he takes cases before the judge said: "It's blatantly unconstitutional. It's as if the state is imposing religion, a direct violation of the First Amendment. Underwood is a good judge overall, but he ought to stick to preaching, since that's what he's trying to do in court."

Bruce Griffiths, staff counsel for the ACLU in Houston, said his office disapproves of the practice on church-state grounds.

"He is, in essence, requiring religious counseling. If there were a probationer that wanted to take issue with it, we'd be willing to take it to court. But what probationer wants to sue their judge?"

While Conroe defense lawyer Phillip Mintz said he dislikes the counseling provision because of "religious overtones," he doesn't mind the prayer.

"The counseling in my view is an unconstitutional provision because it mixes the church and the state," Mintz said. "If you talk about the foundation of morality and that sort of thing, that's obviously colored by the religious or theological viewpoint of whoever is counseling."

But Mintz said he had a change of heart about the judge's prayer after seeing its effect on jurors.

"At first I was real offended. I thought 'You're really mixing church and state, and that's unconstitutional. But when I looked at the jury, especially during the punishment phase, I could see they weren't taking things lightly. They were really with the judge looking for guidance. It meant a lot to my client that they were taking his life so seriously,'" he said.

"I don't see where it's any different from the opening of the Supreme Court where they say 'God save these United States and this honorable court.'"

Conroe attorney Bill Hall said while the counseling provision is unpopular among local defense lawyers, he has never known Underwood to revoke someone's probation because he did not attend sessions.

"On the contrary, he's waived that condition several times when I made the request with a valid reason," said Hall, an avid Underwood supporter. "My personal feeling is I've never run across a more conscientious judge. Decisions weigh heavily on him. I give him an A-plus."

Hall added that the counseling, if pushed to the test, "could be considered unconstitutional. But the judge's motive, I'm sure, is not so much to try to force religion on them, but so they'll have somebody to be in constant contact with. Someone who will encourage them not to violate probation."

While Underwood is generally extolled as honest, conscientious and innovative, disparaging remarks about his special conditions of probation are often uttered in the same breath.

Unlike other judges, Underwood requires that probationers receive counseling on a weekly basis and that they put in many hours of community restitution service. Defense attorneys complain that the judge should use more discretion in levying the two.

Underwood bases all punishment decisions for probationers on presentencing investigations. Some balk at the practice, claiming it violates defendants' Fifth Amendment rights to remain silent by allowing clients to be grilled by probation officers.

Underwood maintains the real reason attorneys gripe about the latter is because it allows him to find out things about the defendant that lawyers rather he didn't know.

Prosecutors tend to agree.

"He finds out a lot of times if the defendant has drug abuse problems, things like that," said Montgomery County District Attorney Peter Speers. "I commend a lot of his practices with probationers. After all, the whole point is to rehabilitate them."

"He's probably the finest judge I've ever worked with. I've never seen him make any decision lightly," agreed assistant District Attorney Bill Behler. "Everything I've seen him do is tailored to what he thinks is best for that defendant and society."

For young probationers standing before Underwood, that often means getting a general education degree within one year if they don't have a high school diploma. For all probationers, it means donating \$25 to Crime Stoppers, a requirement initiated by Underwood that has caught on in other courts in the county. In Montgomery County, Underwood is known as the father of Crime Stoppers, having pioneered the program. He also started the county's community restitution program.

The judge also is known for personally reviewing his probationers' progress.

In one case, he took a young probationer into his home for a few months. The 19-year-old, on probation for burglary of a building, was given a short-term job as bailiff in Underwood's court.

"We're here to give them more than just a slap on the wrist. Probation should be to assist them in helping themselves," Underwood said.

"In a matter of seconds at the bench, I've got to get my point across. They're going to leave my court knowing how displeased I'll be if they break probation."

Overall, Underwood has weathered the criticism.

"He can stand close scrutiny where a lot of judges can't," said Conroe attorney Pat Green, who himself engaged in verbal battle with the judge at a local bar association meeting.

At issue was a controversial questionnaire the judge was asking couples to fill out in divorce cases. Two of the 11 questions dealt with religion. One asked the spouses' religious affiliation and the other wanted to know if either had attended worship services regularly during the marriage.

"He was doing it for his own purposes, kind of like a survey, but he didn't make it clear to the couple in court if they were obligated to answer under oath. It was a question of whether it should be done in open forum or not."

Underwood soon afterward made it clear to couples that they weren't required to respond, ending the dispute, Green said.

Underwood said the purpose of the survey was to help him better determine when a marriage is irreconcilable.

"Certain things help in my judgments," he said. "It's just like the prayer. It helps me when I've got a decision to make and I would hope it helps the jury."

Prosecutors complained three years ago when Underwood surprised them by praying for guidance and "mercy" during a capital murder trial.

"A bad choice of words," said Underwood. But, while not all approve of the practice, he still uses the word "mercy" occasionally, he said.

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Violent Crime (1VI27); Crime (1CR87); Legal (1LE33); Judicial (1JU36); Social Issues (1SO05); Criminal Law (1CR79))

Region: (USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); North America (1NO39); Texas (1TE14))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (ACLU; AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES; CONROE; MONTGOMERY COUNTY; MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION; MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICT; STATE DISTRICT COURT; SUPREME COURT) (Adamick; Barbara Adamick; Bill Behler; Bill Hall; Bruce Griffiths; Green; Hall; Ladies; Locke; Mintz; Olen Underwood; Pat Green; Peter Speers; Phillip Mintz; Prosecutors; Underwood; Weldon Locke)

Edition: 1 STAR

Word Count: 2293

---

End of Document

© 2019 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.

**NewsRoom**